Tailoring the Danger Assessment to Native communities

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Impact of Culturally-specific Danger Assessment on Safety, Mental Health, and Empowerment.

Background

• Of women killed by men that they know, 63% killed by a spouse, ex-spouse or current intimate partner (Catalano et al., 2009; VPC, 2011)
• Between 65-80% of female intimate partner homicide victims were previously abused by the partner who killed them (Campbell et al. ’03)
• In 16 states, 3 with high concentrations of Indigenous women, the homicide rate for AI/AN women was 7.3/100,000, higher than for any other racial/ethnic group (Karch et al., 2007)
• Indigenous women experience the highest lifetime prevalence rates of sexual and physical violence victimization by an intimate partner compared to women of all other races: 51.7% physical violence, 27.5% rape, 55% reporting other sexual violence. (Breiding, 2014)
• Danger Assessment accurately assesses risk of IP femicide in African American, White and Hispanic abused women – not tested with Indigenous women (Campbell et al.)

Project Purpose

1. To understand Native American women’s culturally-specific risk and protective factors for lethal and near-lethal IPV
2. To adapt an online safety planning intervention (myPlan, which includes the Danger Assessment) for Native American women
Research Question

What are the culturally-specific risk and protective factors for lethal and near-lethal violence for Native American women?

Methods

• Relationship building
• Primary investigator mobilized formal and informal networks
• Tribal and organizational approvals
  • Five Tribes in the Northeast
  • Two Tribes in the Southeast
• Two Indigenous-serving organizations in the Southwest
• University-based centers/offices:
  • Office of American Indian Projects
  • The Center for American Indian Health

Participants

• Focus groups and key informant interviews with providers
• In-depth interviews with Indigenous survivors recruited from 3 regions of the United States

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<th>Region</th>
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<th>Provider Interview Format</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Data Collection

• Semi-structured interviews with an interview guide, approximately 60 to 90 minutes per interview

Results

Risk Factors: Partner and Survivor

- Abusive Partner Factors
- Survivor Factors
  - Both Partner and Survivor
  - Social
  - Structural/institutional

Protective Factors: Survivor Factors

- Cultural connection / Ethnic pride
- Meaningful employment
- Sobriety
- Spirituality / Faith or church
- Resilience in the face of contemporary and historical trauma
- Having boundaries / values
- Ceremony and spiritual practices
- Learning from past and changing accordingly
- Wanting better for children
Results

Protective Factors: Family Factors

- Family support
- In-law support
- Extended family network of support (e.g., aunts)
- Children: prioritizing, protecting, providing meaning
- Mother and grandmother support
- Strong female role models
- Grandparent and elder support

Protective Factors: Social & Structural/Institutional

**Social Factors**
- Social connections with other Native women
- Traditional tribal values: respect for women and children; matrilineal
- Community support: batterer’s are known in community; strong bond - “we care for each other”

**Structural/Institutional Factors**
- Financial independence
- Resources (housing, transportation, phone and internet)
- Counseling and domestic violence services (shelter, advocacy)

myPlan App by N. Glass www.myPlanApp.org

- Free in all app stores or online
- Starts with secure access
- Can be done by a friend or family member
- Addresses relationship myths
- Contains Danger Assessment
- Plan tailored to level of danger and priorities

Process

- Team met in person for a retreat in Baltimore
- Team members discussed themes from qualitative data
- Revised text of myPlan for cultural appropriateness
- Revised safety strategies and language for cultural appropriateness for Indigenous groups
- Added suggestions to connect/reconnect with traditional cultural practices and elders as safety strategies based on themes

Adaptations: Healthy Relationships

- myPlan has a list of attributes found in healthy relationships.
- In the ourCircle adaptation, we added an attribute of healthy relationships entitled Cultural and Spiritual Responsibility.

“Cultural and Spiritual Responsibility: Both partners honor one another’s role in carrying out cultural and spiritual responsibilities.”

Adaptations: Priorities

- myPlan has five priorities women often weigh when planning for their safety.
- In ourCircle, we added a 6th priority: Connecting to Native Community.

“Your answers indicate that connecting or restoring connections to your Native community, whether on or off reservation, is what’s most important to you. Sometimes experiencing partner violence can interrupt your spiritual and tribal connections. Being in touch with your community and its network of resources can enhance your capacity to cope whether you leave or whether you stay. ourCircle can provide suggestions to help.”
Adaptations: Safety Strategies

• Connecting to the Land/Homeland
• Networks
• Healing
• Indigenous knowledge

Summary and Next Steps
Adapting myPlan to become ourCircle was based on the qualitative data so that ourCircle promotes the type of healing—“intergenerational healing” that capitalizes on the strengths and resiliencies and counteracts the “trauma on top of trauma” that we heard about from our participants.

How can we understand if the risk and protective factors assist with prediction on the Danger Assessment?

Purpose & goals
1. Understand the scope of intimate partner homicide
2. Replication & Expansion:
   • Urban, suburban, and rural
3. Examine marginalized populations:
   • Immigrants & refugees; LGBTQ individuals; and Indigenous American communities and lands
4. Novel risk factors:
   • Firearm use/ownership/possession, protective orders, military and combat history, children killed, technology-based abuse, multiple strangulation
5. Expand Nationally
Cases: Intimate partner homicide data collection
• Triangulation of data: MEs & PDs (2016-2020)
• Geographic variation: Rural areas, tribal lands
• Avoid relational misclassification: Including of LGBTQ relationships
• Identify IPV-related homicides
• Identify next-of-kin of homicide victims for interviews
  - Gather additional information on relationship history: Including IPV not reported to law enforcement
  - Avoid racial misclassification: Particularly of Indigenous women

Cases: Proxy informant interviews
• Trauma-informed
• Items: validated risk assessment instruments, existing measures, team expertise
• Supplements with population-specific risk factors (e.g., foreign-born, transgender)
• Content validity (n=64, fatality review board members, law enforcement, researchers, culturally-specific service providers)
• Cognitive interviews (n=6)

Controls: Survey intimate partner violence survivors
70% female victims have victimization history based on proxy reports
75% female offenders have victimization history
25-45% had a prior arrest

Implications
• Bring awareness to Native specific risk factors in IPH
• Help to create Native specific intervention programming, or to help potentially inform policy
• Addresses the gap in data that Native people are often subjected to (i.e., othering in data reporting)

Questions?

References
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6308a1.htm#Table7 accessed 04/28/2017